

To whom it may concern:

I believe that having XM satellite radio provide local weather and traffic in the Washington DC area is a most welcome alternative to the horrible local programming provided by radio stations in the area. The quality of the reports from the XM service is far superior to that of comparable services (WTOP radio, etc.), and it is delivered without any of the "fluff" and it is much, much more comprehensive. I don't really care whether or not the service has local announcements or not. All I care is that it is "instant" in that I don't have to wait until a specific time of the hour to hear weather and traffic, which is vital in this area. In addition, if I am willing to pay a premium for the service, why should I be denied of such?

The local radio stations feeling threatened by this new service via satellite shows how, instead of trying to bring their programming up to standard, they'd rather not deal with perceived competitors. Whether or not they permit the distribution of localized programming through satellite radio will not change one fact: I'm not listening to their sub-standard "free" programming any more.

...JN